

Carotid Endarterectomy

Carotid endarterectomy is an operation in which the surgeon removes an obstruction in the carotid (neck) artery caused by hardening of the arteries (atherosclerosis). This operation is performed to prevent stroke. A stroke is a cardiovascular disease that affects the blood vessels supplying blood to the brain. It occurs when a blood vessel bringing oxygen and nutrients to the brain bursts or is clogged by a blood clot or some other particle. Because of this rupture or blockage, part of the brain doesn't get the blood flow it needs which kills the nerve cells in the affected area of the brain. Once these cells die, they cannot be replaced and the part of the brain controlled by these cells cannot function.

Carotid artery problems become more common as people age. People at risk for carotid artery problems are those over age 65 (especially people who smoke) and those who already have poor circulation in the legs or their heart.

Carotid endarterectomy by an experienced surgeon is a very effective way to reduce the risk of stroke. During the procedure, the obstruction in the artery is removed.

Research suggests that hospitals that perform 100 or more of these operations per year will have better patient outcomes than hospitals that perform less than 100 of these operations per year. The optimum (or best) threshold for surgeons has been identified at 6 carotid endarterectomies per year. However, some articles have suggested that for both physicians and hospitals, a low volume of carotid endarterectomies is a range of 1 to 12 per year, a mid volume is a range of 13 to 49 per year, and a high volume is over 50 per year.

[See page 20 for references, numbers 7, 8, 14 and 24.]

Region	Average
Subregion	Annual
Hospital	Volume
Central / Northeastern Region	
Columbia	
Boone Hospital Center	171
Columbia Regional Hospital	13
University Hospitals and Clinics	90
Jefferson City	
Capital Region Medical Center	22
St. Mary's Health Center	62
Rest of Area	
Audrain Medical Center	22
Bothwell Regional Health Center	44
Fitzgibbon Hospital	4
Hannibal Regional Hospital	49
Lake Regional Health System	22
Northeast Regional Medical Center	64
Kansas City / Western Region	
Clay / Platte Counties	
Liberty Hospital	77
North Kansas City Hospital	139
Saint Luke's Northland Hospital	9
Eastern Jackson County	
Independence Regional Health Center	62
Lees Summit Hospital	7
Medical Center of Independence	25
St. Mary's Hospital of Blue Springs	4
Kansas City (Jackson County)	
Baptist Medical Center	55
Research Medical Center	146
Saint Joseph Health Center	69
Saint Luke's Hospital	212
Truman Medical Center-Hospital Hill	12
Rest of Area	
Cameron Community Hospital	6
Heartland Hospital East & West	94

Region	Average
Subregion	Annual
Hospital	Volume
Southeastern Region	
Cape Girardeau	
Southeast Missouri Hospital	90
Saint Francis Medical Center	120
Rest of Area	
Missouri Delta Medical Center	13
Southwestern Region	
Joplin	
Freeman Health System	115
St. John's Regional Medical Center	314
Springfield	
Lester E. Cox Medical Center South	247
St. John's Regional Health Center	210
Rest of Area	
Freeman Neosho Hospital	1
McCune-Brooks Hospital	5
Skaggs Community Health Center	1
St Louis / Eastern Region	
Farmington	
Mineral Area Regional Medical Center	1
Parkland Health Center	15
St. Charles County	
Barnes-Jewish St. Peter's Hospital	8
Crossroads Regional Hospital	1
SSM St. Joseph Health Center	77
St. Joseph Hospital West	4

Region	Average
Subregion	Annual
Hospital	Volume
St. Louis City / County	
Barnes-Jewish Hospital	250
Christian Hospital Northeast-Northwest	83
Depaul Health Center	56
Des Peres Hospital	45
Forest Park Hospital	31
Missouri Baptist Medical Center	185
Saint Louis University Hospital	38
Southpointe Hospital	6
SSM St. Joseph Hospital of Kirkwood	49
SSM St. Mary's Health Center	81
St. Alexius Brothers' Hospital	14
St. Anthony's Medical Center	161
St. John's Mercy Medical Center	104
St. Luke's Hospital	81
Rest of Area	
Jefferson Memorial Hospital	29
Lincoln County Memorial Hospital	2
St. John's Mercy Hospital Washington	55

Procedure-Specific Questions

- ◆ Is my procedure serious enough that I need to have a carotid endarterectomy?
- ◆ Is there a chance that I could still have a stroke after the operation is completed?
- ◆ After the procedure, will I have to be on medication? If yes, how long will I have to take this medication and what are the side effects of these medications?

(See page 3 for other questions)